Community resources

Viewing cable 08CANBERRA1258, SOFA UNLIKELY FOR AUSTRALIA THIS YEAR

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the structure of a cable as well as how to discuss them with others. See also the FAQs

Understanding cables
Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables (browse by origin to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this WikiSource article as reference.

Discussing cables
If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at theparagraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08CANBERRA1258**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08CANBERRA1258	2008-12-11 06:04	2011-08-30 01:44	SECRET//NOFORN	Embassy Canberra

Appears in these articles:
http://www.wikileaks.elfaro.net/es/201108/notas/5468/

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O 110604Z DEC 08
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0657
INFO AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TALLINN IMMEDIATE
JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CANBERRA 001258


NOFORN

STATE FOR EAP/ANP, NEA/I, AND S/I

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/10/2018
TAGS: PREL PGOV MARR MOPS AS IZ ES EN RO
SUBJECT: SOFA UNLIKELY FOR AUSTRALIA THIS YEAR

REF: CANBERRA 1231

Classified By: DCM DANIEL A. CLUNE FOR REASONS 1.4(B) AND (D)
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¶1. (S/NF) SUMMARY It is highly unlikely that Australia will negotiate a SOFA with the Iraqi government before the end of the year. The Australian Department of Defence (ADOD) is developing an alternative plan where personnel who work at the Australian Embassy or Camp Victory will remain in place and the rest will be redeployed out of Iraq but remain in the region. END SUMMARY

¶2. (S/NF) In reftel, dated December 5, Post reported that the Australian government (GOA), while pessimistic about achieving a status of forces agreement (SOFA) with Iraq, was actively exploring options for the continued employment of imbedded Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel serving in MNF-I, particularly those whose missions keep them within the confines of coalition bases. Since then, Chief of the Defence Force Air Vice Marshall Angus Houston and Deputy Secretary of Defence for Intelligence Steve Merchant have told the DATT that it is highly unlikely that Australia will be able to negotiate a SOFA with the Government of Iraq (GOI) by the end of the year. The GOI is not willing at this time to present any more SOFAs to the Council of Ministers for approval.

¶3. (S/NF) As a result, ADOD is developing an alternative plan. All ADF units within the confines of the Australian Embassy in Baghdad and Camp Victory will remain, since the personnel at the Embassy could be protected as Administrative and Technical staff and those at Camp Victory have no need to go "outside the wire." All other forces, including naval units, will redeploy to bases outside of Iraq but will remain in the region and replace American units that could then be deployed in Iraq.

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